



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

January 3, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Roger Berliner, President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Berliner:

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) would like to take the opportunity to express support for delaying implementation of the service changes proposed by the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) in December 2011, to the MARC Brunswick line with a target date of January 30, 2012. The UCAB has not had the opportunity to formally take a position on the request for delaying the proposed changes; however, given the very short window before the only town hall meeting in Montgomery County to discuss the change, and that there is strong evidence the UCAB members support a delay, I feel confident the Board will recommend suspension of the new schedule until MTA is able to gather and process more stakeholder input.

We understand that the proposed schedule change is an attempt to improve service. Our primary concern is that service is improved for some MARC riders but at the expense of riders using Montgomery County stations. Under the proposed schedule Metropolitan Grove will lose two morning trains and one evening train. Passengers using the Boyds, Gaithersburg, and Washington Grove stations will also lose one train each. We feel that MTA is making an effort to hold informal town hall and 'meet the management' events, but these dates are too close to the planned date for the new service schedule and will not allow enough time for decision makers to assess input from the ridership and other affected stakeholders.

The UCAB has also noted the MARC Riders Advisory Council decision to support delay of the proposed Brunswick line schedule changes and feel that some of the general grounds for opposition stated in their December 6, 2011, letter to the Maryland and West Virginia Department of Transportation, should be entitled to additional consideration.

We thank you for your continued support for Montgomery County and in particular the residents of the Upcounty region.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardenas, Chair  
Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board